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State of Utah

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET Resource Development Coordinating Committee



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July 25, 1997

D. Wayne Hedberg
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

SUBJECT:

Western Clay Company - Hebe Gypsum Mine Project M/015/072

State Identification Number: UT970701-010

Dear Mr. Hedberg:

The Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC), representing the State of Utah, has reviewed this proposal. State agencies' comments are as follows:

Division of State History

No historic properties have been recorded within the project area because no historic properties' surveys have been conducted.

A survey of the area may identify historic properties, some of which may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is your responsibility to determine further actions, such as field surveys, to identify historic properties.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Dykmann at (801) 533-3555 or Barbara J. Murphy at (801) 533-3563. (Please refer to Case No. 97-0934)

Division of Wildlife Resources

An initial and yearly survey needs to be conducted within a ½ mile radius of proposed mine expansion for nesting ferruginous hawks. Ferruginous hawk nests are found on the ground, hillsides, or in large live or dead trees. No mining should be allowed withing ½ mile of nesting ferruginous hawk's nests between 15 April to 5 July when the young fledge.

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Desert bighorn sheep can be expected to use the cliffs on the southeast and east side of the proposed mine area near Hebe Mountain. Rams can be expected to migrate in and out of the mine. If bighorn sheep are observed within ½ mile of the mine, then we request that no blasting be allowed between 10 May and 10 July of the year to help avoid conflicts with bighorn sheep lambing.

Realizing that the area has low precipitation, we would still like to see a dryland alfalfa, Ladak or Nomad, added to the reclamation seed mix. The Great Basin Research Station at Ephraim, Utah, (801) 283-4441, should be releasing a new type of dryland alfalfa developed from the Bookcliffs area. If it is available, we would appreciate its addition to the seed list.

If you have any questions please contact Ben Morris at (801) 636-0279, or Bill Bates at (801) 636-0267.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity to review this proposal. Please direct any other written questions regarding this correspondence to the Utah State Clearinghouse at the above address or call Carolyn Wright at (801) 538-1535 or John Harja at (801) 538-1559.

Sincerely,

Brad T. Barber

State Planning Coordinator

BTB/ar